

**Amendments To The Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended)      A reclosable bag, comprising:
  - (a)      a bag portion having two opposing panes and defining a bag interior and a bag opening, the bag opening being configured to be selectively opened and closed, each pane comprising a first side edge and a second side edge and a bottom edge, the bottom edge extending between the first and second side edges and the first and second side edges extending from the bag opening to the bottom edges; and
  - (b)      an element sealed to the first side edges of the bag portion located at an edge of said bag and between two panes of said bag, said element having a passageway extending between the first side edges providing a fluid communication between said bag interior and an outside area; and, the element comprising:
  - (c)      a valve for selectively opening and closing said passageway when said opening is closed, said valve being configured to accept the coupling of a suction device for removing air from the bag interior through the valve.
2. (Previously Presented)      The reclosable bag according to claim 1, wherein said valve is a one-way valve.
3. (Original)      The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said one-way valve is configured to allow access into said bag interior from said outside area, and to block access from said bag interior to said outside area.
4. (Original)      The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said one-way valve is configured to allow access to said outside area from said bag interior, and to block access from said outside area to said bag interior.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended)      The reclosable bag according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein said

passageway is sized and shaped to accept a removable suction device.

7. (Original) The reclosable bag according to claim 2, wherein said one-way valve is one of: a ball valve, pinching valve, flapper valve, air valve, or check valve.

Claims 8-22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The reclosable bag of claim 1, wherein the bag further comprises a means to open and close said bag opening, said means for opening and closing said bag opening comprising opposed interlocking features along said bag opening, said interlocking features being sized and shaped to form a seal when engaged; said element comprising a slider in said bag opening, between said opposed interlocking features, to engage and disengage said interlocking features as said slider moves.

24. (Previously Presented) The reclosable bag according to claim 23, wherein said slider has opposed side faces, each of said side faces being configured to slidably engage with one of said opposed interlocking features along said bag opening.

25. (Previously Presented) The reclosable bag according to claim 24, wherein one of said opposed interlocking features comprises a tongue and the other of said opposed interlocking features comprises a groove, and said side face which slidably engages with said interlocking tongue feature contains a groove, and said side face which slidably engages with said interlocking groove feature contains a tongue.

26. (Previously Presented) The reclosable bag according to claim 23, wherein said slider has a shape which is complementary to the shape of an end of said bag opening, to permit said slider to seal against said end of said bag opening.

2729. (Currently Amended) The reclosable bag according to claim 23, wherein said slider contains a first detent, and said bag contains a second detent positioned proximate to said end of

said bag opening, said first detent and said second detent being configured to engage one another when said slider is moved to a sealed position.

2830. (Currently Amended) The reclosable bag according to claim ~~[[29]]~~ 27, wherein said first detent and said second detent are raised portions configured to produce a snap fit when said slider is moved to said sealed position.

2931. (Currently Amended) The reclosable bag according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein said valve is a two-way valve.

3032. (Canceled)

3133. (Currently Amended) A slider for opening and closing a bag opening of a bag, wherein the bag opening has opposed interlocking features, said slider comprising a movable body in said bag opening, between said opposed interlocking features, to engage and disengage said interlocking features as said body moves, the slider further including:

(a) a passageway in said body, to provide access between an interior of said bag and an area outside of said bag, said passageway being configured to be coupled to a suction device for removing air from the bag; and

(b) a means for selectively opening and closing said passageway;  
wherein, access may be selectively provided between said bag interior and said area outside of said bag through said passageway.

3234. (Currently Amended) The slider according to claim ~~[[33]]~~ 31, wherein said means for selectively opening and closing comprises a one-way valve, said one-way valve being configured to allow access either:

(a) from said outside area to said bag interior, and to block access from said bag interior to said outside area; or

(b) from said bag interior to said outside area, and to block access from said outside area to said bag interior.

3335. (Currently Amended) A method of closing a bag, said bag having a reclosable opening with a first end and a second end, said method comprising (a) moving a slider positioned within said reclosable opening from said first end to said second end, to close said reclosable opening; (b) engaging said slider at said second end to seal said reclosable opening; and (c) providing access between an interior of said bag and an area outside of said bag through a passageway in said slider, the passageway having a valve, by inserting a hollow tube into said passageway, said tube having an insertion end for insertion into said passageway, and a free end, and applying a suction device to the free end to remove air from the bag.

3436. (Canceled)